(b) the details of increase in the number of communication media mentioned above during the last two years; and

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the communication media in near future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The number of post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges as on 31.12.1988 in Sonepat District of Haryana is as under:-

Post Offices	170
Telegraph Offices	31
Telephone Exchanges	12

(b) One Post Office was opened in March, 1991. The number of telephone exchanges was increased by five up to 31.12.1990. No new telegraph office was opened during this period.

(c) Setting up of one post office, two telegraph offices and 9 more telephone exchanges is envisaged for 1991-92.

[Translation]

Facility of Sending Telegrams on Morse Code System

5106. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide the facility of sending telegrams on Morse Code System in Thekma Bazar of Ajamgarh district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the alternate facility the Government propose to provide to people of the above area for sending telegrams?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). Facility to transmit telegrams on Phonocom System is already available at Thekma Bazar in Ajamgarh District. The present telegram traffic is very low and does not justify upgradation of the existing system into Morse Code System.

[English]

Setting up of a New States Reorganisation Committee

5107. SHRI MUKUL BAL KRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new State Reorganisation Committee to go into the various representations demanding alteration of the existing State boundaries and creation of separate States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade and Transit Treaty Between India and Nepal

5108. SHRI MUKUL BAL KRISHANA WASNIK: Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating a fresh trade and transit treaty with Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan for a long-term perspective plan with Nepal for bilateral economic co-operation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An Indo-Nepal High Level Task Force has been set up, pursuant to a decision taken during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Nepal in February 1991, to prepare a comprehensive programme for bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries.

(d) The first meeting of the Task Force was held in Kathmandu on the 4th August 1991. The talks covered a wide range of bilateral economic issues between the two countries. The talks are still continuing, for which further meetings will be held.

Report of US congressional Research Service on Kashmir

5109. SHRI MUKUL BAL KRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent report by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the US on Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

On August 2, 1991 the Congressional Research Service (CRS) brought out a 23 page Report entitled "The Kashmir Dispute: Historical Background to the Current Struggle".

The CRS is a support agency of the US Congress. A part of the Library of Congress, the CRS works exclusively for the Congress, conducting research, analyzing legislation, and providing information at the request of Committees, Members, and their Staff. It is required to make such research available, without partisan bias, in form of Studies, Reports, Compilations and historical briefings. Upon request, the CRS assists committees in analyzing legislative proposals and issues, and in assessing the possible effects of these proposals and their alternatives.

This Report is an updated version of a memorandum prepared earlier in January 1991 for some members of the Congress. The Report, prepared at the request of Congressmen David Deier (Republican-California) and Vic Fazio (Democrat-California).

The Report purports to give a factual historical background of the so-called Kashmir problem from the Perspective of the authors. It also examines the current situation where there are references to arms coming in from Pakistan for use by extremists without, however, any condemnation of that country on this score. The Report attempts to document the genesis of the plebiscite question and concludes that today plebiscite would".....have more relevance